



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ to conduct water survey on New River near Gonzales

BATON ROUGE - The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will be installing electronic monitoring equipment on Aug. 23. This equipment will be used in conjunction with a water sampling survey on New River located near Geismar from the headwaters on Hwy. 75 to the confluence with Petite Amite River near Blind River. The survey is being conducted to gather water quality information that will be used to restore and protect the waterbody and will end Aug. 30.

The equipment will be mounted on rebar, fenceposts, white PVC poles, or buoys. Citizens are asked not to tamper with the equipment. During the survey, a bright red, non-toxic dye will be injected into the water. Citizens who notice the red coloration of the water should not be alarmed. The waterbody will return to its normal state and color by the end of the day. The dye is used to determine flow and distribution patterns of the bayou. These patterns are used to establish sampling points for the survey and to aid in the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load.

A TMDL is the maximum amount of a pollutant that can be released into a waterbody without causing it to become impaired and/or violate state water quality standards. TMDLs are used as a basis for establishing wastewater discharge limits. The data gathered from the survey will be used to identify suspected pollutants in the bayou that may cause or contribute to low oxygen levels in the water.

For further information about the TMDL program and the watershed sampling survey, please contact Kirk Manuel with DEQ at (225) 219-3513 or visit the website at www.deq.state.la.us/technology/tmdl.

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